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Frelinghuysen Would Hold Off Probe of CIA

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WASHINGTON (AP)

Last

week's shooting down of an American airplane inside Russia has aroused new interest in proposals to tighten Congressional control of the nation's intelligence activities.

But Rep. Peter Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), thinks Congress should hold off at least until next year any attempt to delve extensively into this highly secret area.

He said the Central Intelligence Agency now is in a delicate situation and is undergoing a self-examination which could change some of its policies.

Frelinghuysen in 1954 introduced one of the first bills to tighten Congressional and presidential control of intelligence efforts.

That measure would have created a temporary nine-man presidential commission to make a comprehensive study of the nation's foreign intelligence activities.

At that time Frelinghuysen did not feel that a continuing review of CIA activities was necessary but he changed his mind after the Hoover Commission report of 1955.

Frelinghuysen that year, and again in 1958, introduced a measure to set up a joint Congressional committee to study U. S. intelligence efforts.

Frelinghuysen, a former naval intelligence officer, said he favored creation of a watchdog committee to provide "proper democratic review of a highly important executive agency."

He introduced the 1983 proposal following outbreaks of violence that Vice-President Richard M. Nixon encountered on his South American trip.

Frelinghuysen said he has no plans to introduce a similar proposal this year but he left the door open for possible action next year if he is reelected in November.

He said the informal review given CIA's program by the House Armed Services and Appropriations Committee is inadequate.

"Perhaps next year it might be well to take another look at corrective measures," Frelinghuysen said. "It would be inopportune to agitate the CIA too much at this time."

The joint committee Frelinghuysen proposed as CIA's watchdog in 1955 and 1958 was modeled after the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy which he said operates effectively in another highly secret field.

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